

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /069 W

----- 077274

R 291001Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2518

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, OVIP, TC

SUBJECT: TIME MID-EAST NEWSTOUR VISIT TO UAE

1. NEWSTOUR STOP HERE WAS NOTABLE SUCCESS. UAEG FLATTERED THAT DELEGATION OF THIS CALIBRE INCLUDED UAE ON ITS ITINERARY, IN SPITE OF FACT THAT NEITHER SHAIKHS ZAYID NOR RASHID HERE TO RECEIVE THEM. DELEGATION APPEARED IMPRESSED BY WARMTH OF HOSPITALITY IN ABU DHABI AND DUBAI AND SINCERE DESIRE TO COMMUNICATE WITH AMERICANS. NEWSTOUR VISIT GOT EXCELLENT MEDIA COVERAGE.

2. ACTIVITIES INCLUDING BRIEFING BY AMBASSADOR, NEARLY TWO-HOUR SESSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI, COURTESY CALL ON ABU DHABI CP SHAIKH KHALIFA, DINNER HOSTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER WITH EXCELLENT TURNOUT OF ABU DHABI MERCHANT COMMUNITY, FOLLOWING DAY BF DUABI, DHOW TRIP OF CREEK AND NEW HARBOR AND LUNCHEON HOSTED BY SHAIKHS HAMDAN AND MUHAMMAD BENI RASHID.

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3. HIGHLIGHT OF VIST WAS EXTENDED QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO IN ABSENCE SHAIKH ZAYID IS IN EFFECTIVE CHARGE OF UAEG AT PRESENT. VISITORS QUERIED HIM VIGOROUSLY ON ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM TO WHICH SUWAIDI RESPONDED FOR MOST PART WITH CAREFUL PRO-EGYPTIAN LINE. DELEGATION NEVERTHELESS IMPRESSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER'S POISE AND EASY COMMAND OF ISSUES. ON OIL PROBLEM HE TOOK MODERATE LINE SAYING UAE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EASING OF PRICES BUT ALSO HAD TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT INFLATION WAS DOING TO COMMODITIES IT HAD TO IMPORT. ON RECYCLING SUWAIDI SAID 20 PERCENT OF ABU DHABI INCOME LAST YEAR HAD BEEN EXTENDED AS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LDCS.

4. WE HEARD SEVERAL COMMENTS ABOUT ARAB-ISRAEL PORTION OF TRIP THAT WERE ALONG LINES THOSE REPORTED KUWAIT 419. MEMBERS WERE IMPRESSED BY SADAT AND ASAD, AND IN CONTRAST, FOUND ISRAELI LEADERS THEY MET UNIMPRESSIVE. IN PARTICULAR THEY CITED PERES AND ALLON AS BEING "RIGID" AND "UNREALISTIC".

5. VISIT RECEIVED EXCELLENT PRESS AND TV COVERAGE, INCLUDING NEARLY FULL-PAGE IN GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER AL-ITTIHAD. LOW-CIRCULATION PRIVATELY-OWNED DAILY AL-WAHDAH, WHICH HAS BEEN EDITORIALY RAKING US OVER THE COALS FOR "MILITARY THREATS", PICTURED STEUBEN PIECE WHICH NEWSTOUR PRESENTED TO SHAIKH KHALIFA (BIRD OF SOME DESCRIPTION HOVERING OVER CRYSTAL GLOBE) AND HEADLINED POMPOUSLY, "IS THIS AMERICAN BIRD OF PEACE? WE CERTAINLY HOPE SO."
STERNER

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